

SONY®

White paper

March 2015



Xperia™ M4 Aqua
E2303/E2306/E2353

Purpose of this document

Sony Mobile Communications product White papers are intended to give an overview of a product and provide details in relevant areas of technology.

NOTE: The illustration that appears on the title page is for reference only. All screen images and elements are subject to change without prior notice.

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Document history

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Product overview

The all-terrain smartphone

The Xperia™ M4 Aqua boasts the highest waterproof and dust resistant rating as well as an exceptional up to 2-day battery life. This compact smartphone also includes a 13 Megapixel camera for taking photographs on the go and a 5 Megapixel camera for taking selfies.

Great pictures anywhere

The Xperia™ M4 Aqua impresses with an ISO sensitivity setting of 3200 and great performance in low light conditions. Using the built-in Exmor RS stacked CMOS sensor, HDR technology and Superior Auto mode, photos taken using the Xperia™ M4 Aqua are sharp and vivid even in difficult lighting conditions.

Excellent blur-free video

The Xperia™ M4 Aqua has all you need to make great videos. Capture the action as you go and don't worry about keeping the camera still. SteadyShot™ does that for you by compensating for small camera movements or shaking as you record. Meanwhile, the new Movie Creator app adds the ability to automatically create highlight reels from the videos and images stored in your album.

Power saving modes

STAMINA mode can maximize Xperia™ M4 Aqua's standby and active usage time by preventing apps from running when screen is off and adjusting performance in favor of longer usage time. When the battery is fully charged, you can even extend battery life to one-week-long by activating Ultra STAMINA mode keeping only basic phone functionalities.

Move and multi-task

When you're multi-tasking over Wi-Fi® or a mobile network, the Xperia™ M4 Aqua delivers the speed you need. Download email with attachments in seconds and enjoy video streaming with no delays or unwanted buffering. With a Qualcomm MSM8939 Octa-core 1.5 GHz processor and Android 5.0 Lollipop, you can enjoy seamless multi-tasking and optimal graphics performance.

Water and dust proof

Take great pictures in any weather. The Xperia™ M4 Aqua is waterproof and dust-tight. So whether you get caught out in the rain, or you're on a sandy beach or a dusty trail, you can still use your device.

** The Xperia™ M4 Aqua is waterproof and protected against dust, so don't worry if you get caught in the rain or want to wash off dirt under a tap, but remember: all ports and attached covers should be firmly closed. You should not: put the device completely underwater; or expose it to seawater, salt water, chlorinated water or liquids such as drinks. Abuse and improper use of device will invalidate warranty. The device has Ingress Protection rating IP65/68. For more info see www.sonymobile.com/waterproof. Note the Xperia™ M4 Aqua has a capless USB port to connect and charge. The USB port needs to be completely dry before charging.*

Product specifications

Operating system	Google™ Android™ 5.0 (Lollipop)
Processor	Snapdragon 615 Octa Core processor (Quad-core 1.5 GHz + Quad core 1.0 GHz)
GPU	Adreno 405
Size	145.5 x 72.59 x 7.3 mm
Weight	136 grams
Available colours	Black White Coral Silver
Main screen	
Colours	16,777,216 colour TFT, IPS
Resolution	1280x720 pixels
Size (diagonal)	5.0 inches
Scratch-resistant	Yes – Touch panel cover glass
Input mechanisms	
Text input	On-screen QWERTY keyboard, 12-key input
Touch screen	Capacitive
Touch gesture	Yes – multi-touch, up to 4 fingers
Handwriting recognition	Yes
Memory	
RAM	2 GB
Flash memory	Up to 8 GB* (E2303, E2353) Up to 16 GB* (E2306)
Internal Storage (before you update preloaded applications)	Up to 3 GB* (E2303, E2353) Up to 11 GB* (E2306)
Expansion slot	microSD™ card, up to 128 GB
Camera	
Camera resolution	13 MP
Digital zoom	4x
Video recording	Yes – HD 1080p

Front Camera	Yes – FHD 1080p for video chat and 5 MP for camera capture
Sensors	
Accelerometer	Yes
Ambient light sensor	Yes
Proximity sensor	Yes
Magnetometer	Yes
Networks	
E2303	UMTS HSPA+ 900 (Band VIII), 850 (Band V), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz LTE Bands 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 20
E2306	UMTS HSPA+ 900 (Band VIII), 850 (Band V), 1700 (Band IV), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz LTE Bands 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 17, 28
E2353	UMTS HSPA+ 900 (Band VIII), 850 (Band V), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz LTE Bands 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 28, 40
Data transfer speeds	
GSM GPRS (upload and download)	Up to 107 kbps (download), Up to 85.6 kbps (upload).
GSM EDGE (upload and download)	Up to 296 kbps (download). Up to 236.8 kbps (upload).
UMTS HSUPA (upload)	Cat. 6, up to 5.76 Mbps
UMTS HSDPA (download)	Cat. 24, up to 42.2 Mbps
LTE (upload and download)	Cat. 4, up to 50 Mbps (upload), up to 150 Mbps (download)
HAC/TTY support	
HAC	M3/T3 (E2306**)
TTY	Yes (E2306**)
Battery performance	
Talk time (GSM)	Up to 12 hours 42 min.***
Standby time (GSM)	Up to 681 hours***
Talk time (UMTS)	Up to 13 hours 17 min.***
Standby time (UMTS)	Up to 685 hours***
Standby time (LTE)	Up to 547 hours***

Music listening time	Up to 64 hours 46 min.***
Video playback time	Up to 6 hours 57 min.***
Battery (Embedded)	2400 mAh

* The E2303 and E2353 have 3 GB of free memory (before you update preloaded applications) available to the user for downloaded applications and their data, music, pictures and movies while each device has up to 8 GB of flash memory in total. The E2306 has 11 GB of free memory (before you update preloaded applications) available to the user for downloaded applications and their data, music, pictures and movies while the device has up to 16 GB of flash memory in total. For more details about memory, see “Memory in Android™ devices” on page 16.




** The TTY (Teletypewriter) feature is for deaf or hearing-impaired users. Only the E2306 model supports HAC and TTY.




*** Values are according to GSM Association Battery Life Measurement Technique as performed in controlled laboratory conditions. Actual time may vary.

NOTE: Battery performance may vary depending on network conditions and configurations, and device usage.

NOTE: All performance metrics are measured under laboratory conditions.

Categorised feature list

 <p>Camera</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 megapixel camera 4x digital zoom Auto focus Face detection Fast capture Flash/Photo light Geotagging HDR for Movies (Main Camera) HD video recording (1080p) Image stabiliser Quick Launch Red-eye reduction Scene recognition Self-timer Send to web Superior Auto Smile Shutter™ Sony Exmor RS® for mobile SteadyShot™ Sweep Panorama Touch capture Touch focus Video stabiliser White balance 	 <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Album art Bluetooth® stereo (A2DP) ClearAudio+ Clear Bass™ Clear Phase™ Dynamic normaliser Manual equaliser SensMe™ Music application xLoud™ Experience 	 <p>Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bookmarks Google Chrome™* Google Play™ Google™ search* Google Voice™ Search* Google Maps™ for Mobile with Street view*
 <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call list Conference calls Facebook™ application* Hangouts™* HD voice support Loud Speaker Multiple IM Noise suppression Speakerphone Twitter™ application* Xperia™ with Facebook™ 	 <p>Messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversations Email Google mail™* Handwriting recognition Instant messaging Multimedia messaging (MMS) Predictive text input Text messaging (SMS) 	 <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery STAMINA mode Gesture input Illumination effect IPX5 and IPX8 (waterproof)** IP6X (Dust tight) On-screen 12-key keyboard On-screen QWERTY keyboard Picture wallpaper Screen capturing Touch screen Video screen capture Voice input Wallpaper animation

 <p>Entertainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media browser Motion gaming PlayMemories* Radio (FM radio with RDS) Sony Entertainment Network*** Video streaming YouTube™* 	 <p>Organiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airplane mode Alarm clock Calculator Calendar Contacts Document readers eCompass™ Notes Setup guide Stopwatch Timer World clock 	 <p>Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 mm audio jack (CTIA) ANT+™ sport, fitness, health support aGPS* Bluetooth® 4.1 wireless technology DLNA Certified® GLONASS Media Transfer Protocol support Micro USB support Miracast Native USB tethering Media Go™* NFC PC Companion Play Anywhere Smart Connect Synchronisation via Facebook™ Synchronisation via SyncML™ Synchronisation via Google™ Synchronisation with computer Synchronisation via Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® USB High speed 2.0 support USB mass storage Xperia Link™ Wi-Fi® Wi-Fi® Hotspot functionality
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* This service is not available in all markets.

** The Xperia™ M4 Aqua is waterproof and protected against dust, so don't worry if you get caught in the rain or want to wash off dirt under a tap, but remember: all ports and attached covers should be firmly closed. You should not: put the device completely underwater; or expose it to seawater, salt water, chlorinated water or liquids such as drinks. Abuse and improper use of device will invalidate warranty. The device has Ingress Protection rating IP65/68. For more info see www.sonymobile.com/waterproof. Note the Xperia™ M4 Aqua has a capless USB port to connect and charge. The USB port needs to be completely dry before charging.

*** Sony Entertainment Network with Music Unlimited is not available in every market. Separate subscription required. Additional terms and conditions apply.

Technologies in detail

The information presented in this section is a general overview of the technology incorporated into the product. However, hardware and software levels of compliance to standards and specifications vary between products and markets. For more information, contact Sony Mobile Developer World or the relevant Sony representative.

Accessibility and Usability

Accessibility and Usability	
Talkback*	Yes but default is off
Captions*	Yes but default is off
Magnifications gestures*	Yes but default is off
Large Text*	Yes but default is disabled
High Contrast Text*	Yes but default is disabled
Power button ends call*	Yes but default is disabled
Auto-rotation*	Yes but default is disabled
Speak Passwords*	Yes but default is disabled
Accessibility Shortcuts*	Yes but default is off
Text – to – Speech*	Yes
Touch and hold delay*	Yes, default is “short”
Color Inversion*	Yes but default is disabled
Color correction*	Yes but default is disabled
Hearing Aid Compatibility (HAC)	Yes
Teletypewriter (TTY)**	Yes (E2306)

* Android Lollipop feature. Subject to possible change in future releases of Google™ Android™.

** The TTY feature is for deaf or hearing-impaired users. Only the E2306 model supports TTY.

Device-to-device communications (local)

ANT+™ wireless technology

Compatible devices	Some ANT+™ compatible devices may require installation of additional software.
Frequency band	2.4 GHz
Data transfer rate	Up to 60 Kbps
Encryption	AES-128
Topologies	One to Many, Many to One, Peer to Peer, Star, Practical Mesh

Bluetooth® wireless technology

Bluetooth® profiles supported	Advanced Audio Distribution Profile v1.2 Audio/Video Remote Control Profile v1.3 Generic Attribute Profile Client/Server over LE Handsfree Profile v1.6 (Wide band speech) Headset Profile v1.2 Human Interface Device Profile v1.0 Object Push Profile v1.1 Personal Area Networking Profile v1.0
Core version and supported core features	Version 4.1
Other supported features	aptX® CD quality audio streaming over Bluetooth®
Connectable devices	Products that support at least one of the profiles listed above. Bluetooth 4.1 accessories generally require installation of a supporting application.

More information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

www.bluetooth.com

Wi-Fi®

Supported standards	IEEE 802.11 a/b/g/n and Wi-Fi® Wi-Fi Direct®, Wi-Fi Protected Setup, Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Miracast™
Connectable devices	Wi-Fi® access points Wi-Fi Direct compatible devices
Frequency band	2.4 GHz / 5 GHz
Data transfer rate	Up to 150 Mbit/s
Security	Open Authentication Shared Authentication EAP-SIM EAP-AKA EAP-TLS EAP-TTLS/MSCHAPv2 PEAPv0/EAP-MSCHAPv2 PEAPv1/EAP-GTC WPA Personal and WPA2 Personal WPA Enterprise and WPA2 Enterprise
Encryption	WEP 64 bit, WEP 128 bit, TKIP and CCMP (AES)
Power save	WMM-UAPSD
QoS	WMM

DLNA Certified® (Digital Living Network Alliance)

Supported Device Classes	<p>M-DMS – Mobile Digital Media Server Media Types: images, music and video Summary: The digital media server exposes the media files in your device to a Wi-Fi® network. The files can then be accessed from other DLNA CERTIFIED® clients.</p> <p>M-DMP – Mobile Digital Media Player Media Types: image, music and video Summary: You can play content stored on another device, for example, a server or a PC, directly on your device.</p> <p>M-DMC – Mobile Digital Media Controller Media Types: image, music and video Summary: Digital Media Controllers find content offered by a DMS or M-DMS and match it to the rendering capabilities of a DMR — setting up the connections between the DMS and DMR.</p> <p>+PU+ Media Types: image, music and video Summary: You can play media in your device on another device, such as a TV or a PC using 2 box push technology. +PU+ is integrated in the Album, Movies and Music applications.</p> <p>+DN+ Media Types: image, music and video Summary: You can download content stored on another device, for example, a server or a PC, and play the downloaded content directly on your device.</p> <p>+UDO+ Media Types: image, music and video Summary: A media server uploading function that allows media files to be uploaded to Xperia devices from other DLNA certified clients.</p>
Supported Bearers	<p>Wi-Fi®</p> <p>Wi-Fi Direct®</p>
DRM Support	The DLNA Certified® implementation does not support DRM-protected content.

Messaging

MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service)

According to OMA Multimedia Messaging Service v1.0 + SMIL

Email

Bearer type (IP)	GPRS, EGPRS, UMTS, Wi-Fi®
Character sets	BIG5 Traditional Chinese GB2312 Simplified Chinese GB18030 ISO-2022-JP Japanese ISO-8859-1 ISO-8859-2 Eastern Europe ISO-8859-5 Cyrillic ISO-8859-7 Greek ISO-8859-9 Turkish ISO 8859-11 KOI8-R Cyrillic Shift_JIS Japanese USASCII UTF-16 UTF-8 Windows® 874 Windows® 1251 Cyrillic Windows® 1252 Windows® 1254 Turkish Windows® 1258 Vietnamese
Protocols	POP3 and IMAP4
Push email	Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® (EAS)
Secure email	SSL/TLS, both port methods (POPS/IMAPS) and START-TLS
HTML mail	Yes (read only)

More information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

www.openmobilealliance.org

Positioning – location based services

Supported standards:

- OMA Secure User Plane Location (SUPL) v1.0
- 3GPP™ Control Plane location (including Emergency location), only supports E911
- Qualcomm® GPSTOneXtra

Provisioning (OMA CP)

OMA CP version 1.1

Multimedia (audio, image and video)

Audio Playback	Decoder format	Supported in file format
	Audio decoding MPEG-1/2/2.5, audio layer 3	MP3 (.mp3), 3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4, .m4a)
	AAC, AAC+, eAAC+	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
	AMR-NB, AMR-WB	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
	General MIDI (GM)	SMF (.mid)
	Linear PCM 16bit	WAV (.wav)
	OTA	OTA (.ota)
	Ogg vorbis	Ogg vorbis (.ogg)
Audio Recording	Encoder format	Supported in file format
	AMR-NB, AMR-WB	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4), AMR (.amr)
	AMR-NB, AMR-WB, AAC-LC stereo Sample rate: 48 kHz Bit rate: up to 384 kbps	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
Image Playback	Decoder format	Supported in file format
	1, 4, 8, 16, 24 and 32 bpp and RLE encoded formats	BMP (.bmp)
	Single and multi-frame, bitmap mask support (GIF87a format and GIF89a format)	GIF (.gif)
	Joint Photographic Experts Group	JPEG (.jpg)
	Portable Network Graphics Bitmap mask support	PNG (.png)
	Wireless Bitmap	WBMP (.wbmp)
Image Capture	Encoder format	Supported in file format
	Joint Photographic Experts Group	JPEG (.jpg)
Video Playback	Decoder format	Supported in file format
	MPEG-4 Visual Simple Profile	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
	H.264	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
	H.263 Profile 0	3GPP (.3gp)
	H.265	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)

Video Recording	Encoder format	Supported in file format
	- Video H.263 Profile 0, H.264 Baseline Profile, H.264 High Profile - Audio: AAC-LC stereo Bit rate: 10 Mbps AMR-NB	3GPP (.3gp), MP4 (.mp4)
Audio/Video Streaming	Streaming transport	RTSP according to 3GPP™ HTTP streaming

Synchronisation (OMA DS, EAS, Google Sync™)

OMA Data Synchronisation protocol versions 1.1.2 and 1.2

OMA Data Formats: vCard 2.1, vCalendar 1.0

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 2.5

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 12.0

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 14.0

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 14.1

Google Sync™

Related information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

Web browser

Google Chrome™ for Android™ is pre-installed in markets/regions where no restrictions apply.

Related information:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.android.chrome>

Memory in Android™ devices

To use Android devices efficiently, users should be aware of the different types of device memory. This knowledge is important in order to understand, for example, where data such as music, photos and videos is saved; how many apps can be downloaded from Google Play™; and how photos can be copied to a PC.

Information regarding memory presented in this section may be useful to developers when optimising applications for mobile devices.

Generally, all Android devices share the same basic memory setup. What differs is how much memory is available to you via the different types of memory, and whether your device uses an external SD card or an internal memory chip. Any information specific to the particular device model described in this White Paper is noted as such.

Types of memory

The types of memory described and numbered below are consistent with the terminology used in Sony mobile device menus and in other content relating to 2015 Xperia™ devices:

1. **Dynamic Memory** (also known as RAM) is used by applications that run when the device is turned on. The amount of Dynamic Memory influences how many applications and operating system services can run at the same time. The Android operating system automatically closes applications and services that are not being used.

However, such automatic functionality has limits. For example, if a lower amount of free RAM is available to applications after a new release of the operating system (due to increased capabilities in the system), device speed will eventually be impacted. This is the main reason that a device cannot be indefinitely upgraded to newer releases of Android™.

If you experience problems with RAM, for example, if the device runs slower than usual or if the Home application restarts frequently when you leave an application, you should minimise the use of apps that run all the time. Social networking apps that connect and update their data online and animated backgrounds are examples of apps that are always running and affect RAM performance. To minimise RAM issues, you could also consider using a static wallpaper instead of a live wallpaper.

To see which apps and services are currently active, go to **Settings > Apps > Running**. You should have at least 50 MB, and ideally 100 MB or more, of free RAM to avoid slowdowns and application restarts.

You should also be aware that if you update the device to a later Android release, the load on the built-in Dynamic Memory will increase due to the addition of more features. As a result, the device may run slower after an update.

The Xperia™ M4 Aqua has 2 GB of RAM available to the Android OS and any installed applications. 200 MB of the total RAM is in use during normal operation when the user starts using the device out of the box.

2. **System Memory** (also known as “System partition” or “/system”) is used for the Android OS and for most applications that are pre-loaded from the factory. This type of memory is normally locked, and can only be changed through a firmware upgrade. There is usually some free space available in this section of memory. However, since it is locked, you cannot save apps, photos or any other content to this memory. System Memory is reserved for future firmware upgrades, which almost always need more memory than the original firmware. You cannot see or influence the use of this memory.

3. **Internal Storage** is referred to as "working" memory. It can be compared to the C: drive on a PC or to the startup disk on a Mac.

This type of memory is used to store all application downloaded from the Google Play™ Store (and other sources) as well as their settings and data (such as emails, messages and calendar events, for example). All applications have an allocated area for application data. Memory dedicated to an application is inaccessible to other applications.

Some game applications also store content such as game music and game level information outside their own designated area. In most cases, an application can choose to save its data in a location of its own choosing (outside the protected application settings area). Generally, such content is not deleted when an application is uninstalled; it must be removed manually by connecting the device to a computer with a USB cable, or by using a file manager application.

Internal storage is also used for all added user content. For example, photos taken using the device's camera, media files downloaded from the Internet and file transfers are stored in this area. Typical user content includes:

- photos
- movies
- music
- Email attachments

Internal Storage will tend to fill up as a result of normal usage. Devices with a large initial Internal Storage can handle more applications and store more user content.

If the Internal Storage starts to get full, the device slows down, and in some cases it might no longer be possible to install more apps. You should always ensure that you have at least 100 MB of free Internal Storage. If not, you should consider removing some apps that you seldom use, or move content that you do not frequently access to external storage.

You can see approximately how much Internal Storage is free in **Settings > Storage > DEVICE MEMORY**. You can also view more details about how much memory is used by applications under **Settings > Apps**. Depending on the particular variant of the device, the Xperia™ M4 Aqua has either 3 GB or 11 GB of Internal Storage available out of the box.

Please note that in Sony Mobile 2015 products, "Internal Storage" is now the combination of what was previously known as "Device Memory" or "Phone Memory" (for applications and their data – also previously known as "/data") and "Internal Storage" (for user's content – also previously known as "/sdcard"). The changes in Internal Storage were made so that memory usage could be more flexible and to allow encryption of user content.

Memory card slot

Some products include both a large internal memory and a built-in memory card reader. Android manages devices with a built-in memory card reader and internal memory differently from a device that includes only a built-in memory card reader.

Since most applications expect only a single location for storage, such applications will not generally allow you to SAVE anything to the memory card (i.e., they do not offer the option to choose a storage location). However, some applications (for instance, the Sony Mobile "Camera" application) may actually allow you to do so. Other applications, for example, backup applications such as the Sony Mobile "Memory" application, will by definition be configured to copy content from the Internal Storage to the external SD card.

On the other hand, when it comes to reading from an external SD Card, you will be able to access content (for example, videos, photos and music) on a memory card inserted in this slot without any special consideration since the Android system searches all available memory for content. Therefore, such products may be regarded as supporting a fourth type of memory, called “External Card” or “SD Card”.

4. **SD Card** (known as “/ext_card” from a programmer’s point of view, or by other names in other Android products) is the name for the removable SD memory card in all 2015 Sony Mobile products. As described in the previous section, this External Card memory is generally more limited in that any application can read from it, but many applications cannot save to this card. Only a few applications, including backup applications and file manager applications, have the capability to save to this card.

Backing up data to different memory types

Generally, you should not save photos, videos and other personal content solely on the internal memory of a device. If something should happen with the hardware, or if the device is lost or stolen, the data stored on the device’s internal memory is gone forever.

In a device where an SD card reader is the main memory, it is relatively easy to take the card out and copy all content to a PC or Mac, or to an entertainment device with a memory card slot. In a product featuring Internal Storage as the main memory, it is not possible to physically remove the memory. Instead, any critical or high-value content must either be copied to an external SD card by a special backup application, transferred to remote storage over a network (mobile or Wi-Fi), or to a computer via a USB cable.

To facilitate the transfer of data via a cable, the Xperia™ M4 Aqua supports Media Transfer Protocol (MTP), which makes it possible to easily transfer content back and forth between your device and a Windows® PC. For Apple™ Mac® computers, a special application called Sony™ Bridge for Mac is available with built-in support for MTP. This application can be downloaded from the Xperia™ M4 Aqua support page.

Note that you do not need to back up or make a copy of applications that you have downloaded from the Google Play™ Store. They can normally be downloaded again after you have set up your Google account to work in a new device (or in a device where the memory has been completely erased).

Note 1:

Some Android devices, including Sony Mobile devices from 2012 and Sony Ericsson devices from 2011 and earlier, do not use a single “Internal Storage” for both applications (and their data) and user content. Instead, these devices use either an external SD card for user content, or a corresponding area of internal memory to reproduce the functionality of an SD card. In such devices, there is a fixed limit between the application area (“/data”) and the user content area (“/sdcard”), with the result that user content can build up and reach this limit. When the user content reaches this limit, no additional data can be added using any application. For example, the camera application would no longer be able to capture additional photos even if a considerable amount of free space was available in the application area. This limit also applies to the application area. Downloading and installing new applications would not be possible even if there was enough free memory in the user content area.

Note 2:

Some devices with integrated storage have abandoned the distinction between the application area and the content area when it comes to a Factory Data Reset. As a result, there is no option in such devices to perform a Factory Data Reset and preserve content. In such devices, all content is completely deleted from the device when a reset is performed.

In contrast, Sony Mobile’s memory integration solution makes it possible to preserve user content in this situation. Therefore, when performing a Factory Data Reset, the default action will still be to only remove applications and their data, and an option box must be checked if all content is to be removed as well (as might be desirable when selling the device second-hand).

Note 3:

For a developer, it is important to note that from a programming point of view the location names used to refer to the different memory areas described in Note 1 are still valid, i.e., the area used for applications (“/data”) is still present, as is the area used for content (“/sdcard”).

In reality, “sdcard” is a “symbolic link” to “/data/media”. However, from inside an Android application, “/sdcard” can still be used. For example, you can use “sdcard/DCIM/100Android” to find all camera images. The continued use of “/sdcard” to access the content area ensures compatibility across different products and Android releases in this regard.

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